

Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative – Webinar 2: Questions and Answers

Q1: You mentioned something about the facility and utility in the application. Can you repeat what the relationship that you are looking for between the utility and the facility?

A1: Through the Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative, we require that all applicants work closely with their utility to meet all interconnection requirements, as with any distributed generation project.

Q2: How can we get a copy of today's presentation?

A2: The webinar recording and presentation slides are archived here:
<http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/webinar-future-and-archive.html>.

Q3: If a municipality goes directly to the PI application is there any funding available to offset the design and development costs that would have been funded should they have used the TA application?

A3: As stated in the "Funding Guidelines" section of the Project Implementation Application Information document, the Initiative funding will cover "system design and engineering costs" of a project.

Q4: What if a municipality decides to work directly with a developer rather than go through the TA application. Would you advise against this?

A4: The choice to work directly with a developer would be up to the municipality. This municipality would be eligible for Project Implementation funding, but would need to submit an application by the July 15, 2014 deadline.

Q5: Is there an opportunity for technology vendors and municipalities to identify potential partners to propose joint projects? Can vendors find a way to identify themselves to municipal planners for projects?

A5: Vendors are more than welcome to reach out directly to municipalities, and vice versa, regarding potential project partnerships. Municipalities must, however, abide by the procurement rules applicable to that municipality.

Q6: Will the study provide enough information to prepare incentive applications for the utility?

A6: The technical assistance will not provide a study in line with the requirements for the utility incentive program. The technical assistance will direct awarded applicants to financial resources for which they are eligible (in addition to Initiative funds).

Q7: What is the award rate for the second round if a city or town receives a TA grant?

A7: As stated in the solicitation documents: "DOER will award up to \$20 million of the grant funding in the first round of PI Applications. The remaining \$20 million or more will be available to second round PI applicants that have previously received a technical assistance award the Initiative as well as any PI projects that scored well in their evaluation but went un-funded in the first round."

Q8: Will the TA grant provide cities and towns with complete design plans for projects?

A8: The technical assistance offered by DOER through solicitation PON-ENE-2014-035 will include a technical analysis resulting in a summary report containing critical conceptual design information and indicative economic information on a potential resiliency project, including:

- o Description of system technology and design, grid-configuration, capabilities, and supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) requirements
- o System schematic (1-line diagram) showing relative locations of primary generation equipment, switchgear, controls and point(s) of common coupling
- o Installed equipment, labor, services and O&M costs
- o System energy and financial performance, including cost benefit analysis considering all major potential revenue sources and energy cost savings

The report will also include a detailed project plan including:

- o Major siting and implementation barriers identified during project evaluation
- o Assessment of the system against a variety of metrics, including ability to reduce severity and/or duration of service interruptions, and support for critical infrastructure
- o Resiliency to gradual pressures (e.g., temperature change, rainfall decrease/increase, and rising energy costs)
- o Resiliency to acute pressures (e.g., natural disaster or major equipment failure)

This report will serve as the foundation for the "Design Study and Financial Analysis" requested in the Project Implementation Application helping to enable Technical Assistance awardees to apply for funding in the second round of Project Implementation applications.

Q9: Existing PV is installed with PPA -- City does not own panels. Does this disqualify us? How will this work?

A9: Using an existing PV system, whether PPA or directly owned is allowed under the Initiative.

Q10: If don't have 15 minute electrical data, what data is required.

A10: Applicants should request 15-minute interval data from their utility. If an applicant cannot acquire 15 minute interval electrical data, hourly data or, at a minimum, monthly load data will suffice. The shorter time interval data will enhance the technical assistance provided.

Q11: Can you help us determine if CHP is appropriate for a facility? Do you care about age of existing heating system?

A11: The technical assistance offered through the program will determine whether specific types and sizes of generation are appropriate for a facility. The consulting team will consider all aspects of a facility, including existing energy systems. The information on buildings and their energy systems required for technical assistance is explicitly stated in the Technical Assistance Application forms 1 and 2, and the Supplemental Information form.

Q12: I don't believe that National Grid typically provides 15 minute electrical data, while NSTAR does. If this is correct, will projects in NSTAR electric communities receive priority?

A12: One application will not be prioritized over another based on utility territory.

Q13: Are you allocating the money based on region in any way? or is it a need-based system? Is there a cap for specific regions?

A13: The Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative does have a goal of geographic diversity. As stated in the Evaluation Criteria sections of both application information documents:

“In recognition that climate events are known to affect all regions of the Commonwealth, DOER will make awards, to the extent possible, in a manner that fairly distributes this public support across all regions of the Commonwealth.”

The rest of the evaluation criteria lay out the other ways in which an application will be scored. There is no cap for the number of awards that can be made in a specific region.

Q14: Who in the municipality do you think would typically be involved in determining and identifying "critical facilities"?

A14: Critical facilities are typically identified through a collaborative process between municipal leadership, public safety officials, and emergency preparedness officials. Each municipality will have its own process for this decision-making.

Q15: In this webinar and the first one, you use a lot of terms that need defining such as islanding, flywheels, black start, etc.

A15: A flywheel is a rotating mechanical device used to store rotational energy. Flywheels are often used to provide continuous energy in systems where the energy source is not continuous, for example, intermittent renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

Black start capability refers to the ability of a generation unit to restore power to itself without relying on external electric power. In the case of an outage, a natural gas combined heat and power (CHP) unit with black start capability, for example, could go from completely shut off, to running normally without having to use an external signal.

Q16: You should provide links to the utility waiver forms for each utility, to instructions on how to request 15-minute electrical data, and other things you'd like us to provide on the CCERI website. It's often difficult to find this info on their websites or from our representatives who change often.

A16: Technical Assistance Application Form 2 outlines instructions and minimum requirements around electrical load data. As stated in the application form: "If you [the applicant] do not have this data, it can be acquired by contacting your utility account representative(s) OR the applicant can include a signed waiver allowing the technical assistance consulting team to access the data on the applicant's behalf."

Check to see whether your municipality has already obtained data from the prior year. If not, either (1) obtain the data and provide to Cadmus; or (2) the applicant can provide a utility data waiver, naming Cadmus as broker so that the consulting team can request the data on its behalf; however the community should be prepared to cover the cost any costs associated with the data request.

For option (1):

There is some variation between utilities on the request forms. Below are instructions for each investor-owned utility. Note that municipal light plants will also have their own process for data requests and an applicant in those territories should reach out directly to the municipal light plant.

Unitil –

- An applicant can make web (account page) or phone request (888-301-7700) to provide access to metered data, gas or electricity
- First request is free.

Northeast Utilities (including NSTAR and WMECo.) –

- Northeast Utilities is handling data requests of all its subsidiary territories through the same portal (WMECO, NSTAR)
- Data are provided via an access-protected web site
- Northeast Utilities is charging for first-time data requests from all customers - \$50 per account
- All interval load data requests are provided via EPO Online. EPO (Energy Profiler Online) is a secured website that stores, displays, and analyzes interval load data. Data can also be downloaded from this site for use in MS-Excel or other software applications. Data is not updated within that period.

- An applicant must complete the service agreement online [here](#), print it, sign it, and return it as specified on the form, via email or fax. Your online id will be available within two business days.
- If you have any questions, please contact EPOAdmin@nu.com or call EPO hot-line 866-658-2356.

National Grid –

- If G3 rate class, request 15-min interval data, either through utility letter or [EPO](#) (fee applies).
- If G1 and G2 rate class, check whether facility is participating in a pilot/non-standard project in which case higher resolution data may be available. if not, provide one year of monthly electric bills

For option (2):

If an applicant wishes to provide a waiver to the consulting team suggested language is included below. This waiver should be on official letterhead and signed by an authorized representative. Suggested language is as follows:

Re: Access Authorization

To Whom It May Concern;

As [Title of Authorized Representative], I hereby authorize:

Name: Charlie McClelland

Title: Associate, The Cadmus Group, acting under the MA DOER Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative

Email: Charles.McClelland@cadmusgroup.com

to receive full access to the energy interval load data of the [Name of Municipality] that is included in the [Name of Utility] energy reporting system. The following is a list of the accounts from which data is requested (add rows for facilities as needed):

	<i>Facility 1</i>	<i>Facility 2</i>	<i>Facility 3</i>
<i>Account Number</i>			
<i>Service Address</i>			
<i>Billing Name</i>			
<i>Billing Address</i>			
<i>City/State/Zip</i>			

Yours truly,

[Signature of Authorized Representative]

Q17: What % of the project is the maximum you are planning to fund?

A17: Technical Assistance will be provided at no cost to the awarded applicant. As stated in the “Funding Guidelines” section of the Project Implementation Application Information form:

“The applicant submitting a PI Application must provide a minimum of 10% match of funding for the project, with no more than half of the match allowed as in-kind.”

As such, 90% of the eligible project costs can be covered by the Initiative. As stated in the “Evaluation Criteria” section, “meeting or exceeding [the] cost share requirement” will be considered in our scoring of applications.

Q18: What portion of the fund will be allocated in Technical Assistance and Project Implementation?

A18: DOER has currently allocated \$200,000 of the \$40 million for the consulting contract for technical assistance so that such assistance can be provided at no cost to awarded applicants. DOER has the discretion to increase this amount if deemed necessary through higher than anticipated demand for services. The remainder of the \$40 million will be used for project implementation.

Q19: Can the customer go into Project Implementation without a need for Technical Assistance for a Cogeneration project and what are the criteria?

A19: A project using any type of eligible technology can submit a Project Implementation Application in the first round of the program, without receiving Technical Assistance from the Initiative. The criteria for eligibility and evaluation are outlined in the Project Implementation Application Information document.

Q20: When will you have the webinars posted and what is the URL?

A: All of the webinars are archived on our website here: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/webinar-future-and-archive.html>.

Q21: How do bidding laws affect project implementation, does this work qualify for 25A, or would it need to be competitively bid once implementation is awarded?

A21: The Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative is a competitive grant program. Applications to both Technical Assistance and Project Implementation will be evaluated, scored and awarded through a competitive process. Once awarded, Project Implementation projects will be managed by the awardee under whatever procurement rules apply to the specific municipality or regional entity.

Q22: Is the 15 minute electrical data obtainable through NGrid/ utility?

A22: See Question 16.

Q23: Are Technical Assistance awarded municipalities guaranteed future Project Implementation funding?

A23: All Project Implementation applications from Technical Assistance awarded municipalities are NOT guaranteed funding through the Initiative.

Q24: How much of a priority is the frequency of utility outages? We don't have frequent outages but would be thinking of long term resiliency - i.e. the 100 year storm type of event.

A24: Frequency of utility outages is not an evaluation criterion, but will be important in understanding a specific project's vulnerabilities and design needs through the technical assistance.

Q25: Will the technical assistance include help with interconnection issues?

A25: The technical assistance includes a technical analysis resulting in a summary report containing critical conceptual design information and indicative economic information on a potential resiliency project. While Cadmus will take into consideration the service size, along with the Massachusetts electrical code, in determining the maximum capacity of a system, we will not be providing interconnection design, nor will the TA provide the applicant with assistance in applying to the utility for interconnection.

Q26: What would you expect the average Technical Assistance grant to be?

A26: There is no financial award made for Technical Assistance, as all technical assistance will be conducted by the DOER procured consulting team led by the Cadmus Group at no cost to the municipality.

Q27: Is it advisable to perform the technical review prior to an implementation request?

A27: DOER cannot advise an applicant to pick one application type over another. The two options are available to meet the needs and readiness to implement of different municipalities across the Commonwealth.

Q28: Can applicants for implementation get assistance with vendor identification (battery providers, for example)?

A28: DOER is not able to collect and/or disseminate vendor information.

Q29: What level of detail is required for the application? i.e. Does the municipality need to identify facilities that it would want to integrate, etc.

A29: The specific Technical Assistance Application requirements are spelled out in the Technical Assistance Application Forms found on our website [here](#) and on www.commbuys.com under PON-ENE-2014-035. Technical Assistance does require the applicant to identify critical facilities that will be evaluated and analyzed by the consulting team.

Q30: Do you have a standard form for the utility waiver?

A30: See Question 16.

Q31: Is this program only available for municipal projects, or could a state-owned facility, such as a state college, potentially receiving assistance through the program?

A31: State-owned facilities may have project sites that could be deemed critical facilities and therefore partner with a municipality or regional public entity to submit an application for a project at that site. Such projects would require the Memorandum of Understanding to provide the applicant critical functions for public benefit in the case of an emergency event. Note that, only eligible applicants can submit applications and a state college is not an eligible applicant.

Q32: Did the speaker go over specific types of projects that are eligible? I came in five minutes late.

A32: The speaker did review specific example projects. These examples are also described in the “Potential Project Outcomes” section of the Technical Assistance Application Information document and the “Funding Guidelines” section of the Project Implementation Application Information document.

Q33: Are multiple TA submittals allowed--especially where critical facilities are clustered in various areas?

A33: An applicant may include multiple critical facilities in a Technical Assistance application. These will be analyzed by the consulting team to determine viability and may or may not both be fully developed into project plans depending on that viability.

Q34: When you discuss critical facilities, you differentiate three types. Is the enumeration also a ranking of the types of critical facilities that will be considered in the evaluation?

A34: DOER has prioritized critical facilities as enumerated in the solicitation documents (1. Life safety resources; 2. Lifeline resources; 3. Community resources).

Q35: Could you not have a spot on your web site for vendors to sign up to list what they do for informational purposes only?

A35: DOER is not able to collect and/or disseminate vendor information on its website.